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ANNOUNCE THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS TO

The Third Resilience Academy:
Enhancing Resilience to Minimize Loss and Damage -
Providing Knowledge for the UNFCCC

06-12 September, 2015, near Dhaka, Bangladesh



ICCCAD
International Centre for
Climate Change and
Development

The Resilience Academy

In the most vulnerable regions of our planet, the impact of extreme weather events such as floods, droughts and cyclones threaten lives and livelihoods. The most affected regions include large deltas, small islands and exposed coastal regions as well as arid and semiarid lands, and areas affected by glacier and permafrost melt. People on the frontlines of climate change face severe risks from extreme weather and slow onset processes, including coastal inundation, catastrophic floods, and extended drought conditions. These stresses have the potential to render spaces effectively unproductive and uninhabitable. A central question for practice, policy and research revolves around the resilience of peoples whose livelihoods systems and settlements are threatened. The Resilience Academy will provide a platform for connecting communities of expertise (early phase practitioners, academics and policy analysts), examining livelihood resilience in the face of extreme weather events and slow-onset environmental changes.

Five years of South-South-North collaboration

Five annual Resilience Academies have been planned between 2013 and 2017. The first four Academies form two pairs. One cohort of participants attended the first two Academies; a second cohort will attend the third and the fourth. Each set of Academies will be held once in the South, in Bangladesh near Dhaka and once in the North, near Munich in Germany. The fifth and final Academy will bring the two cohorts together. In each cohort, the participants will begin collaborative writing projects in the first year, and finalize them in the second year. Together with the fifth event, this model will give the participants the opportunity to deepen their individual competence as well as strengthen their network.

The theme of the first two Academies, in 2013 and 2014, was 'Exploring livelihood resilience'. The next two academies build on the experiences during the first two academies and link livelihood resilience to the emerging topic of 'loss and damage associated with climate change impacts'.

Theme: Enhancing Resilience to minimize Loss and Damage – Providing Knowledge for the UNFCCC

The Resilience Academy 2015 in Bangladesh and the Resilience Academy 2016 in Germany will produce, combine and share knowledge about enhancing livelihood resilience to minimize loss and damage.

Loss and damage is an emerging topic in climate change negotiations, research, policy and implementation of climate change action, and is expected to grow in importance after the establishment of the "Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts" in December 2013. Loss and damage refers to impacts of climate-related stressors that have not been or cannot be avoided through mitigation and adaptation efforts. Loss and damage can result from sudden-onset events as well as slow-onset processes, and includes economic as well as non-economic losses and damages.

Questions and sub-themes addressed in the 2015 and 2016 Resilience Academies include, but are not limited to:

- How can building livelihood resilience help minimize avoidable L&D?
- How can unavoidable L&D be addressed without undermining livelihood resilience?
- How do slow-onset environmental changes lead to L&D?
- What methods exist for valuating non-economic L&D?
- What limits and constraints to adaptation exist in different parts of the world?
- What L&D can be attributed to global warming?
- What are acceptable and intolerable climate risk?
- What are tipping points and how can we detect them?
- How can migration and insurance help address L&D?
- What is transformative adaptation and how can it help?
- How can the activities of the Warsaw International Mechanism be made most effective for addressing L&D?
- How should finance for addressing L&D in vulnerable countries be organized under the UNFCCC?

At COP22 in Morocco, in December 2016, the structure, mandate and effectiveness of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage will be reviewed. The Resilience Academies of 2015 and 2016 aim to provide intellectual and operational input to the activities of the Mechanism and advice on future directions of the work. The organizers of the Resilience Academies have a long record of providing knowledge for the UNFCCC. This puts the participants in a unique position to influence relevant policy processes. The bigger aim is to protect the world and its most vulnerable people against dangerous climate change impacts.

Who is invited and what are we aiming for

The Academy aims at a balance of participants from different parts of the world and with different thematic backgrounds. The Academy will bring together a group of young professionals, including academic scholars, and practitioners. Different perspectives are important to foster a common understanding. Our goal is to:

- Produce scientific papers for publication in international peer-reviewed journals;
- Develop strategies to disseminate outputs of the Academies in the UNFCCC decision making process and other strategic policy processes.
- Produce policy-relevant research including policy briefs.

Teachers and Facilitators:

Participants will play an important role in setting the agenda of the Academy and providing content. To complement the expertise in the group, we will invite key resource persons, such as IPCC authors and UNFCCC delegates.

Dates and Venues

- Bangladesh: Near Dhaka, 6th to 12th September 2015
- Germany: Near Munich, 4th to 10th September 2016

Accommodation, local transport and meals will be organized and funded by the hosts. Upon request a limited budget for supporting further travel costs will be available.

To apply, please provide the following

- One concise paragraph describing how your work relates to the central theme of the 2015 and 2016 Academies: Enhancing Resilience to Minimize Loss and Damage – Providing Knowledge for the UNFCCC;
- An up-to-date CV, including a list of publications;
- A letter of recommendation.

Advanced English language skills will be necessary.

Please, send all materials in one email with the subject line "ACADEMY" to: resilience.academy@ehs.unu.edu

Deadline for application: 31 January 2015

Decision will be made by end of March 2015

About the organizations

The Resilience Academy is organized by United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), the International Center for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and the Munich Re Foundation (MRF).

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